REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Applicants first note that independent claims 1, 11 and 20 recite the following limitations, certain of which are emphasized for ease of reference in the ensuing discussion.

Claim 1 recites an electronic peripheral device for coupling to an electronic system, *the electronic system being selectively coupled to a first wireless network or a second wireless network through the electronic peripheral device,* the electronic peripheral device comprising:

a first module with which the electronic system accesses the first wireless network, comprising a first interface; and

a second module with which the electronic system accesses the second wireless network, comprising:

a second interface coupled to the first interface for *transmitting a plurality of signals between the first module and the second module*;

a third interface coupled to the electronic system for *transmitting a plurality of first signals or a plurality of second signals between the electronic system and the second module*; and

a processor for controlling the transmission of the first signals and second signals;

wherein when the electronic system is coupled to the first wireless network, the first module transmits the first signals received from the first wireless network to the electronic system *through the first interface, the second interface, and the third interface in order*, and transmits the first signals received from the first interface to the first wireless network; and when the electronic system is coupled to the second wireless network, the second module transmits the second signals received from the second wireless network to the electronic system through the third interface, and transmits the second signals received from the third interface to the second wireless network.

Claim 11 recites a network card for coupling to an electronic system, *the electronic system being selectively coupled to a first wireless network or a second wireless network through the network card*, comprising:

a first module for accessing the first wireless network, comprising a first interface; and

a second module for accessing the second wireless network, comprising:

a second interface coupled to the first interface for *transmitting a plurality of first signals between the first module and the second module*;

a third interface for coupling to the electronic system for *transmitting the first signals or a plurality of second signals between the electronic system and the second module*; and

a processor for controlling the transmission of the first signals and the second signals;

wherein *when the electronic system is coupled to the first wireless network, the first module communicated with the electronic by the first signals*; and when the electronic system is coupled to the second wireless network, the second module communicated with the electronic by the second signals.

Claim 20 recites a network card for coupling to a first connecting interface of an electronic system, *the electronic system is selectively coupled to a first wireless network or a second wireless network through the network card*, the network card comprising:

a first wireless module for accessing the first wireless network; and

a second wireless module for accessing the second wireless network and coupling to the first wireless module, the second wireless module comprising:

a second connecting interface coupled to the first connecting interface; and

a processor for controlling the transmission between the electronic system and the first wireless module or the transmission between the electronic system and the second wireless module;

wherein *when the electronic system is coupled to the first wireless network, the transmission between the electronic system and the first wireless module passing through the second wireless module*; when the electronic system is coupled to the second wireless

network, the transmission between the electronic system and the second wireless module transmitting directly.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1, 11 and 20 continue to stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,877,023 to Maffeis et al. In response to Applicants' previous submission, the Examiner replies (in section 4 on page 2) that the preamble has not been accorded any patentable weight. Applicants respectfully submit that this is not proper pursuant to MPEP §2111.02 which clearly directs that "*Any terminology in the preamble that limits the structure of the claimed invention must be treated as a claim limitation.*" See, e.g., Corning Glass Works v. Sumitomo Elec. U.S.A., Inc., 868 F.2d 1251, 1257, 9 USPQ2d 1962, 1966 (Fed. Cir. 1989) (The determination of whether preamble recitations are structural limitations can be resolved only on review of the entirety of the application "to gain an understanding of what the inventors actually invented and intended to encompass by the claim."). In the instant claims, the preamble of claims 1, 11 and 20 each recites specific structural features of the claimed electronic peripheral device/network card, specifically that of *the electronic system being selectively coupled to a first wireless network or a second wireless network through the electronic peripheral device*. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the preamble of the present claims should be accorded patentable weight because it limits the structure of the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants once again respectfully submit that Maffeis fails to disclose or suggest the claimed limitation of "the electronic system being selectively coupled to a first wireless network or a second wireless network through the electronic peripheral device." The Examiner maintains his earlier position that element 1a in Fig. 1 of Maffeis is analogous to the electronic system, element 3 is analogous to the first wireless network, element 7 is analogous to the second wireless network, and element 2c is analogous to the electronic peripheral device. For the record, Applicants once again note that it is clear from this figure as well as the associated description that element 1a (the electronic system) cannot be selectively coupled to element 3 (in Fig. 1 of Maffeis' first wireless network) or element 7 (in Fig. 1 of Maffeis' second wireless network) through element 2c (in Fig. 1 of Maffeis' electronic

peripheral device), because element 2c is simply a terminal device that only communicates with element 1a through a wireless protocol (WAP), and there is absolutely nothing in Maffeis that could lead a skilled reader to understand that element 2c can be a device offering functionality to alternatively/selectively connect element 1a to two different networks. Applicants further respectfully traverse the Examiner's contention that Maffeis does disclose selective coupling in that any coupling is clearly a selection that has been made either by a system or a user, because this interpretation is (a) not in any way relevant to the claimed limitation, as the claim recites selectively coupling to one of two networks, and does not recite by whom the coupling selection is made, and (b) not supported in the least bit by the plain language of Maffeis.

Applicants further note that the Examiner continues to assert (in section 10 on page 4) that element 2c of Maffeis is analogous to the presently claimed electronic peripheral device, element 1a of Maffeis is analogous to the electronic system, the WAP of Maffeis is analogous to the first module/first interface, element 4a of Maffeis is analogous to the second module/second interface, element 3 of Maffeis is analogous to the first wireless network, element 7 of Maffeis is analogous to the second wireless network, and the TCP of Maffeis is analogous to the third interface (the mapping relationships are all the same as recited in the previous Office Action). Applicants submit that regardless, *the signal transmitted from WAP (first interface) to item 1a (electronic system) does not pass through item 3 (first wireless network), item 4a (second interface), and TCP (third interface) in order.* For this reason, Applicant respectfully insists that Maffeis fails to teach, suggest, or disclose that "when the electronic system (element 1a of Maffeis) is coupled to the first wireless network (element 3 of Maffeis), the first module (WAP of Maffeis) transmits the first signals received from the first wireless network (element 3 of Maffeis) to the electronic system (element 1a of Maffeis) through the first interface (WAP of Maffeis), the second interface (element 4a of Maffeis), and the third interface (TCP of Maffeis) in order."

Applicants further respectfully note that in section 5 on page 3 of the present Action, the Examiner adopts a different and contradictory interpretation of Maffeis, asserting that element 2c of Maffeis is analogous to the first wireless network, element 3 of Maffeis is analogous to the first interface, etc. Applicants thus submit that the Examiner has misunderstood the scope of the

presently claimed invention as well as misinterpreted the teaching of the prior art as evinced by his inconsistent application of its teachings.

Applicants finally note that in the new interpretation advanced by the Examiner in section 5 on page 3 of the present Action, after the messages of Maffeis pass through element 3 (the alleged first interface), they enter element 1a (the electronic system) directly. It is therefore apparent that even with this interpretation, Maffeis still fails to suggest, teach, or disclose that the messages pass through the first interface (element 3), second interface (element 4a), third interface (element TCP), and electronic system (element 1a) in order.

In view of all of the preceding, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11 and 20 are in fact novel, non-obvious, and patentable over the art on record. , and ask the Examiner to kindly reconsider, withdraw the finality of the present Action, and pass these claims to issue.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 2-10 and 12-19 continue to stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maffeis in view of what is well known in the art. In light of the above discussion Applicants continue to respectfully disagree, and note that claims 2-10 and 12-19 depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of claims 1 and 11, Applicants submit that claims 2-10 and 12-19 are also allowable.

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In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to kindly reconsider, withdraw the finality of the present Action, and pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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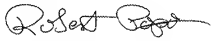
May 19, 2008
(Date of Transmission)

Respectfully submitted,



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